



**SYCANN COMMUNICATION**  
**April 2026**

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## INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the latest South Yorkshire CANN Update.

South Yorkshire Children's Additional Needs Network shares information and helps to increase the reach of your services for children and young people in the region.

Regarding updates and information, if you have material or information that you would like forwarded to the members of the Network, or any updates, please ensure that you email it to Miriam on [southyorkshire@cann-network.org](mailto:southyorkshire@cann-network.org), before the end of the month.

Thanks to everyone who shared the information below for our latest update, which contains information and sessions for children and young people with additional needs and their parent carers.

**You can find these Communications on the SYCANN Website at:**  
**<https://www.cann-network.org/blog/>**

### SYCANN MEETING DATES

*Please let us know if you need any support accessing the meetings*

#### **Upcoming Meeting:**

30th June 2026  
24th November 2026

10am to 12pm  
Irwin Mitchell's offices in Sheffield  
Riverside East House, 2 Millsands, Sheffield S3 8DT

# Celebrating 10 Years Of Impact: **The CANN National Knowledge Exchange**

Online Webinar

Thursday 30 April 2026  
10:00am - 12:30pm



## **National CANN Conference:**

### **Celebrating 10 Years of Impact: The CANN National Knowledge Exchange**

April 30th  
10am - 12.30pm

Book here now for free to secure your space

Please do share with other non-profit leaders and statutory service providers that may be interested.

<https://celebrating10yearsofimpactthec.splashthat.com/>

## **CHAIR COMMENTS**

As we move into April, it is wonderful to finally see the signs of Spring appearing, even if the Easter holidays usually bring a bit of traditional British rain along with them! I hope you all manage to find some time for a well-earned break and some chocolate over the festive period. Reflecting on our network's progress, I am delighted with the "steady upward increase" we are seeing in our engagement and reach. Our last meeting on 24th March was a fantastic success, providing a brilliant space for us to share regional events and strengthen our collaborative links across South Yorkshire.

Looking ahead, I am particularly excited to invite you all to the National CANN Conference: "Celebrating 10 Years of Impact: The CANN National Knowledge Exchange" on 30th April. This is a milestone event for us to showcase a decade of supporting families, and I would encourage you to share the booking link with any non-profit leaders or statutory providers in your circles who would benefit from our collective expertise. It's an incredibly exciting time for the network, especially with the West Midlands branch launching soon, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference to celebrate how far we've come

South Yorkshire CANN  
www.cann-network.org  
southyorkshire@cann-network.org

Nina Rose and Maxine Beckett  
SYCANN Co-Chair's  
South Yorkshire CANN  
chair.southyorkshire@cann-network.org

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## NEW MEMBERS



### Thomas Pocklington Trust

Thomas Pocklington Trust Education Advice Service provides free, confidential and impartial advice and guidance to blind and partially sighted students aged 7+, their parents/carers and the professionals that support them. We provide expert information, advice and guidance on navigating primary and secondary school, college and university.

<https://www.pocklington.org.uk/education/>

*If you know of any groups that may be interested, please get them in touch!*

*If you are not yet on the CANN website, you can be added by completing this form:*

<https://www.cann-network.org/member-registration-form/>

*Please only use contact details that are for public use*

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## RESEARCH

### INSPIRE MSK study - Investigating Self-management of Musculoskeletal Pain in Real Life

Do you have a young person with musculoskeletal chronic pain? The University of Sterling are looking for young people aged 12-24 to take part in an interview about their self-management practices.

The study aims to understand more about how different financial environments can impact MSK.

#### Take Part

Find out more about the study at: <https://inspiremsk.stir.ac.uk/>

South Yorkshire CANN  
www.cann-network.org  
southyorkshire@cann-network.org

The study has ethical approval from the University of Stirling's Research Ethics Committee.

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## **INFORMATION & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIONAL/ONLINE**

### **Black Maternal Health Week - the Lived Experience from Down Syndrome UK**

Wednesday 15th April | 12.00 pm

This webinar coincides with Black Maternal Health Week and we are pleased to be joined by three of the founders of Black Child Down Syndrome. The Black Child Down Syndrome (BCDS) Project is a groundbreaking advocacy initiative dedicated to increasing awareness, representation, and support for Black children with Down syndrome and their families. As parents of children with Down syndrome, Oneness, Tonye and Danise will be sharing their maternity experiences in order to promote best practice for black parents.

Note: To sign up, please ensure you tick the box of the upcoming webinar before completing and submitting your details.

[Register for the April Webinar here](#)

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### **Family Fund - Free virtual workshops to support your digital skills and boost your finances**

This month we're offering support with a range of topics for parents and carers, including learning about the accessibility features on an iPad to finding out how to check your benefits entitlements. Here's what's available:

- Canva skills for parents and carers – Make a star chart
- Completing an online grant search
- Checking your benefits online
- Make it work for you (iPads)
- Supporting your young person into adulthood
- Finding grants as a parent/ carer

For children and young people, our next workshop is the Coding club programme. We'll be using the free VEXCode website (available on all devices) to create a castle crushing game, using sensors and loop functions. Then, during the Easter holidays we have more creative digital workshops but this time with a seasonal theme!

All workshops are free, easy to join from home, and designed to help families to get the most out of devices and being online.

Find out more and book now: <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/support/discover-digital/workshops>

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### **A Sensory Theatre Experience Delivered to Your Door with Oily Cart!**

Looking for a way to bring the magic of theatre into your own home? InSideWays is a first-of-its-kind, accessible sensory show designed specifically for disabled young people (ages 0-25) and their families who find it difficult to attend live performances.

Instead of a stage, you receive a colourful chest of drawers filled with:



Sensory objects created by experts and artists.



A Sensory Storybook for your family to keep.



Soundtracks and instructions to lead your own adventure.

There's no right or wrong way to play—just YOUR way. At a value of over £1250 per experience, this is a high-quality, professional production brought directly to your living room.

Details:



Cost: £25 per family (Financial support available if price is a barrier).



Where: Your home! (Currently touring specific areas including East Yorkshire, Cheshire, and the West Midlands).



Duration: You get to keep and explore the chest for 12–14 days.

Book your family's spot here:



[https://www.tickettailor.com/events/oilycart/1938283?mc\\_cid=49eb6575ef&mc\\_eid=a0b52dc6da](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/oilycart/1938283?mc_cid=49eb6575ef&mc_eid=a0b52dc6da)

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### **Webinar from Astor Bannerman: Accessible Equipment in Heritage Buildings - Challenges & Practical Solutions**

Date: 16 April 2026

Time: 12:30pm (UK)

Specifying accessible equipment in heritage buildings comes with a unique set of challenges.

From listed homes and period school buildings to historic public spaces introducing Changing Places facilities, balancing preservation with compliance and usability requires careful thought.

How do you protect the character of a building while ensuring it is inclusive, safe, and fully functional?

This focused 30-minute webinar explores the practical considerations of installing accessible hygiene and changing equipment within heritage and listed environments — and how to overcome common design and installation barriers.

BOOK NOW:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9217730552522/WN\\_kRJNIRLfRgitoRyacl-Smw#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9217730552522/WN_kRJNIRLfRgitoRyacl-Smw#/registration)

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**Join WheelPower and Luiz Faye for a FREE Online Adaptive Box-Fit Class from the comfort of your homes LIVE on Zoom.**

If you're looking for a home workout that increases your strength, core stability, and mobility, then look no further! From the comfort of your own home, join Luiz Faye for functional and friendly sessions that can be performed from a seated position, and to suit all levels and abilities.

<https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/activities/online-adaptive-boxfit-class>

# FREE ONLINE ADAPTIVE BOX-FIT CLASS

MONDAYS  
11AM



[wheelpower.org.uk/classes](https://wheelpower.org.uk/classes)

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## H.I.E. Conference - Thursday 14th May 2026

Join us for our first H.I.E. Conference  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2026, The Lowry, Salford Quays

We're bringing the community together for a very special day, our first H.I.E. Conference. It's something we've wanted to do for such a long time: creating a space where families, professionals and organisations can come together to listen, learn and support one another.

Why come along?

South Yorkshire CANN  
[www.cann-network.org](http://www.cann-network.org)  
[southyorkshire@cann-network.org](mailto:southyorkshire@cann-network.org)

- Hear from families about their experiences following an H.I.E. event, sharing honest and powerful stories.
- Be informed by researchers and healthcare professionals on efforts to reduce instances of H.I.E., improve outcomes and enhance support.
- Feel empowered to contribute to meaningful change.
- Explore exhibitor stands with helpful information from charities, professionals and organisations.
- Connect with others who understand fully what life after H.I.E. means, and the importance of compassionate, collaborative care and support.

Who is it for?

Parents / carers and family members, healthcare professionals, researchers, charities, community organisations, legal and advocacy professionals – in fact there really is something for everyone!

What can you expect?

A day of sharing and learning, as well as being supported and feeling heard.

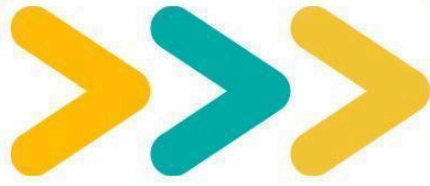
We've a wonderful line up of speakers; lived (living!) experience stories, research insights, workshops and legal clinics. There's a dedicated parent / carer room with peer support available, so as well as having the opportunity to network, there's also space to pause and reflect. We're here to make the day as safe and enjoyable as possible, for everyone.

For those who might find events like this a little overwhelming, please do get in touch. We can arrange to meet people on arrival if preferred, or help facilitate introductions with others. The Peeps team will be on hand throughout the day to answer any questions and ensure everything goes smoothly.

We would love you to join us if you can, to really put H.I.E. on the map, doing even more to raise awareness and offer support.

Tickets are available on [Eventbrite](#), or you can email [info@peeps-hie.org](mailto:info@peeps-hie.org) if you'd like to make a group booking or pay by invoice.

Please share with your friends and networks too – the more people we reach, the bigger the difference we can make.



# H.I.E. CONFERENCE

14<sup>th</sup> May 2026

The Lowry, Salford Quays

Kindly supported by:



**BoltBurdonKemp**



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## INFORMATION & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - REGIONAL

**Junior Learn to Paddleboard with Wheelpower**

South Yorkshire CANN  
[www.cann-network.org](http://www.cann-network.org)  
[southyorkshire@cann-network.org](mailto:southyorkshire@cann-network.org)

**Date**

Wednesday 20 May 2026

10:00am or 1:00pm

**Location**

Manvers Waterfront Boat Club  
The Boathouse, Station Road  
Wath-upon-Deerne, Rotherham  
S63 7DG

Join us for a fun, friendly and inclusive Junior Learn to Paddleboard for 10-17 year olds. Paddle sports are highly adaptable and accessible, making this a fantastic opportunity for young people who may require additional support or adaptive equipment to enjoy a day on the water. Whether you are trying paddling for the first time or building confidence, this session is all about having fun, learning new skills, and enjoying being active outdoors.

The session takes place at the beautiful Manvers Lake, offering sheltered water, calm conditions, and plenty of wildlife. This is an ideal event for beginners.

**Paddle Options & Adaptive Equipment**

Participants will have the chance to try paddleboards, kayaks, and canoes, with a wide range of adaptive equipment available. Options include:

- Bespoke paddleboard seats with outriggers for added stability
- Seats compatible with tandem, large and XL boards
- The option to paddle using sports wheelchairs secured to an XL board via our accessible slipway and ramp
- Sit-on-top kayaks and canoes
- Bean bags, foam kneeling saddles, posture-supported seating and other adaptive aids

Everyone's needs are different, so please get in touch ahead of the event to discuss your individual requirements. We are happy to tailor support to suit each paddler.

<https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/activities/junior-learn-to-paddle/>

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**Barnsley CVS News**

We are heading back out onto the road in April and are coming to Barnsley North! We will be at Roundhouse Library, Laithes Crescent, Athersley South, Barnsley S71 3AE at Thursday 16th April, 11am – 2pm. Meet our team over coffee and cake! No need to book just show up.

We are moving! We are still on the look out for organisations that need event space, hot desks or co-working spaces to join us in the heart of Barnsley. If you are interested please email [jamie.noble@barnsleycvs.org.uk](mailto:jamie.noble@barnsleycvs.org.uk)

Did you know we have a venue available to hire in Monk Bretton? Whether this is for your staff meeting or community event we could host you! [Find out more!](#)

South Yorkshire CANN  
[www.cann-network.org](http://www.cann-network.org)  
[southyorkshire@cann-network.org](mailto:southyorkshire@cann-network.org)

We have a dedicated team of community accountants who are here to help do your accounts, payroll and bookkeeping. Why not take one thing off your to-do list? [Find out more here.](#)

Full Newsletter: <https://aidemail.co.uk/campaigns/barnsleycvs/qUo4MclvXwrDuToj73gVROfvP>

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### **Neurodiversity Sheffield Drop-in Cafe Sessions in March**

Please find attached the flyers for our drop-in café sessions for Foxhill Forum (S6 1BT) on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 9:30am-12pm and Woodhouse Community Hub and Library (S13 7GD) on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 9:30am-12pm. Please do feel free to share these with colleagues and the families you work with.

As ever, we would be delighted to see you at either, or both, of these events or any of our other drop-in café sessions (Scotia Works S1 4SE on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 4:30pm-7:00pm, Sharrow Community Forum S7 1DB on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 9:30am-12:00pm and Lowedges Community Centre S8 7HN on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 9:30am-12:00pm). We would love to know if you are planning to come along, but do feel free to just turn up if you suddenly find you can make it.

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## Neurodiversity Sheffield Early Help Drop-in

- Do you have a child or young person who is living with ADHD or Autism?
- Is your child waiting for a diagnosis of neurodivergence?
- Do you need advice or support around behaviours in your child or young person which might be indicative of neurodivergence?

Delivered by Family Action and supported by Sheffield Parent Hub, Sheffield Family Hubs and Sheffield City Council.

Our informal drop in coffee sessions are a chance to have a chat with other parents/carers who are experiencing similar concerns. You will also have the chance to meet staff from Neurodiversity Sheffield, Sheffield Family HUBS, Ryegate, and other agencies who support families with neurodivergence.

**Come along for help, support, advice and information... you will be in good hands.**

neurodiversity.sheffield@family-action.org.uk

0114 2412733 or 07816 408019

**Neurodiversity Sheffield**  
Sharrow Community Forum, South View Road,  
Sheffield, S7 1DB

At Sharrow Community  
Forum:

Wednesday 13th May,  
9.30am-12.00pm

**No diagnosis or  
booking required!**

For more information about our service,



or visit  
**family-action.org.uk**

Family Action. Registered as a Charity in England & Wales no: 264113.  
Registered as a Charity in the Isle of Man no: 1206. Registered Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales no: 01068194.

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## ADHD Drop-in Information session

Come along to our Information session to learn more about how to support your child with ADHD.

In our information sessions, we discuss the basics of ADHD and provide advice for managing ADHD. Following the session, materials will be provided as well as signposting to other services.

*Please arrive on time for the session and note that children cannot attend.*

In the event of snow/ice please check our Facebook page for updates, or phone ahead to check whether the session has been cancelled.

neurodiversity.sheffield@family-action.org.uk

0114 2412733 or 07816 408019

**Neurodiversity Sheffield**  
Scotia Works, Leadmill Road, Sheffield, S1 4SE

At Scotia Works:

10.00am – 11.30am on

Tuesday 13th January,  
Tuesday 17th March,  
Thursday 21st May

**No diagnosis or  
booking required!**

For more information about our service,



or visit  
**family-action.org.uk**

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**Come along for help, support, advice and information... you will be in good hands.**

neurodiversity.sheffield@family-action.org.uk

0114 2412733 or 07816 408019

**Neurodiversity Sheffield**  
Scotia Works, Leadmill Road, Sheffield, S1 4SE

At Scotia Works:

Thursday 30th April,  
4.30pm-7.00pm

**No diagnosis or  
booking required!**

For more information about our service,



or visit  
**family-action.org.uk**

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## **Junior Learn to Paddle with WheelPower**

### **Event Details**

Date: Wednesday 20 May 2026, 10:00am or 1:00pm

### **Location**

Manvers Waterfront Boat Club  
The Boathouse, Station Road  
Wath-upon-Deerne, Rotherham  
S63 7DG

Our Junior Learn to Paddle event is for anyone aged 10 - 17 with a physical disability. Highly skilled coaches will introduce you to this super adaptable and accessible sport at Manvers Lake, Yorkshire. In this beautiful setting you will be equipped with everything you need to live your best active life on the water. Calm conditions, stunning wildlife and nature, and good times await, so don't delay, register now!

<https://www.wheelpower.org.uk/activities/junior-learn-to-paddle>



# JUNIOR LEARN TO PADDLE

with WheelPower

Wednesday 20 May

Manvers Waterfront  
Boat Club, Rotherham

## Sheffield Directory

Sign up to the Sheffield Directory -

<https://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/directory>

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South Yorkshire CANN  
www.cann-network.org  
southyorkshire@cann-network.org

## Mental Health Matters events



## Autism Acceptance Month @ Adult Autism And ADHD Hub

### All about ME

- This April, we're celebrating Autism Awareness Month by focusing on ourselves — our strengths, our creativity, and our unique ways of seeing the world.
- Throughout the month, we'll be exploring:
  - 🎨 Creative Expression  
From art to Dungeons and Dragons, we'll celebrate the many ways we communicate and express who we are.
  - 🗣️ Sharing Our Stories  
Talking with others about our autism — what it means to us, what helps us thrive, and what makes us unique.
  - 💖 Self-Understanding & Self-Acceptance  
Learning more about our needs, strengths, and identities, and recognising that being autistic is something to be proud of.
- ✨ This month is all about embracing who we are and supporting each other to shine ✨



## Adult Autism and ADHD Support Hub – April 2026 group sessions @ 44 Bank Street, S1 2DS

Mondays Drop-in 1:2:1 support 10:00 – 14:00		Wednesdays Drop-in 1:2:1 support 10:00 – 14:00	
30/03/2026 12:00 – 14:00 <b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons – Group 1</b> Please let us know if you would like to join	30/03/2026 12:15 – 13:30 Tea & Chat	01/04/2026 Express yourself through Art Share your creativity with the World Welcome to bring your own art material/equipment	
06/04/2026 <b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>		08/04/2026 12:00 – 14:00 <b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons – Group 2</b> Please let us know if you would like to join	08/04/2026 12:15 – 13:30 Tea & Chat
13/04/2026 12:00 – 14:00 <b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons – Group 1</b> Please let us know if you would like to join	13/04/2026 12:15 – 13:30 Tea & Chat	15/04/2026 12:15 – 13:30 Can join us face-to-face or virtually One Page Profile What makes you, you ? This session is all about you !!	
20/04/2026 12:15 – 13:30 Can join us face-to-face or virtually My helpful Solutions for Regulating Distress		22/04/2026 12:00 – 14:00 <b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons – Group 2</b> Please let us know if you would like to join	22/04/2026 12:15 – 13:30 Tea & Chat
27/04/2026 12:00 – 14:00 <b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons – Group 1</b> Please let us know if you would like to join	27/04/2026 12:15 – 13:30 Tea & Chat	29/04/2026 12:15 – 13:30 Can join face-to-face or virtually Talking about my Autism/ADHD Planning and reflecting on how you would like to explain your Autism to friends, family, work colleagues or anyone else.	

## SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS:

Website:

[www.cann-network.org](http://www.cann-network.org)

Email:

[southyorkshire@cann-network.org](mailto:southyorkshire@cann-network.org)

South Yorkshire CANN  
[www.cann-network.org](http://www.cann-network.org)  
[southyorkshire@cann-network.org](mailto:southyorkshire@cann-network.org)

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/sycann.bsky.social>  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-yorkshire-cann>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/southyorkshirecann>

Please share SY CANN links with your followers and encourage them to follow too.  
Please add [southyorkshirecann@cann-network.org](mailto:southyorkshirecann@cann-network.org) to your Contact list to stop it going into junk.

*To ensure our digital presence remains a safe and inclusive space that reflects our core values, the CANN Network has made the decision to step away from X (formerly Twitter) and will now be focusing our community engagement on our other social media platforms.*